GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3005
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012
DIGITALISATION OF CABLE TV
Patil Shri Sanjay Dina

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that more than 1000 TV channels would come into existence in the country in the near future;

(b) if so, whether the Government is planning to digitise cable TV with a view to increase the revenue from digital cable TV service;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of consumers?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. JATUA)

(a) to (c): The Ministry has given permission for 833 TV Channels as on date. The Government is implementing digitalization with addressability in the Cable TV sector in a phased manner to address the drawbacks of existing analogue system. The scheme of digitalization will be implemented in four phases. The Ministry, vide its notification dated 11.11.2011, had notified sunset dates for implementing digitalization with addressability in the cable TV services,leading to complete switch off of analogue services by 31st December,2014. The implementation of digital addressable cable TV system will bring about complete transparency in business transactions in the sector which in turn will ensure that tax collection by the Government matches the market size, leading to higher revenues to the Government.

(d) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issueda consultation paper titled "Issues related to implementation of Digital Addressable Cable TV systems"on 22.12.2011 where issues that need to be addressed though a regulatory regime have been identified. These issues which are aimed at protecting interests of consumers, inter-alia, include the regulatory provisions on the aspects of tariff, interconnection and Quality of Service for the digital addressable regime.